(b) and (c) Pakistani statement which reveal its determination to pursue military parity with India are not new. India is not engaged in any arms race. The Government at the same time remains committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security based on a realistic assessment of the country's security environment.

Handing over of twenty criminals to India by Pakistan

1782. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh attempt has been made by Government to Pakistan for handing over of twenty most wanted persons to India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) India had asked Pakistan several times to apprehend and hand over the 20 fugitives from Indian law. Most recently, in the context of Dawood Ibrahim being placed by the United Nations Security Council Al Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee on its consolidated list established pursuant to Security Council Resolution 1267, the matter was once again brought to Pakistan's attention.

Increase in staff strength of Indian and Pakistani High Commission

†1783. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan have recently increased the number of staff in their High Commissions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of existing staff after increasing their strength in the High Commissions of both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) In continuation of Prime

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.